

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A retractable ~~Retractable~~ roof system for a motor vehicle ~~equipped with including a vehicle structure (50), and having a front end and a rear end,~~ the retractable roof system comprising at least a front roof panel (3, 40) and a rear roof panel (2, 48), ~~said roof panels being which are~~ movable in relation to each other along a longitudinal direction (58) of the vehicle between:

a flush position in which the roof panels are placed substantially at the same level as each other, the front roof panel thus being located in front of the rear roof panel, along said longitudinal direction; and

an off-set position in an upward direction in which the roof panels are placed at least partially one ~~on top of~~ above the other;
~~characterised in that:~~

one of the front and rear roof panels ~~comprises~~ bearing a group of front levers (62) and a group of articulated rear levers, (64) ~~pivotally mounted in relation to this roof panel (48),~~ so as to tip over between:

[[-]] a low position in which ~~the said one of the front and rear panels~~ panel in question is substantially flush with a surround part of the vehicle structure, (50) ~~of the vehicle;~~

[[-]] and a high position in which said one of the front and rear panels ~~panel in question~~ is off-set in an upward direction in relation to the level of its flush position;

wherein:

said front and rear group of levers are pivotally mounted in relation to said roof panel which bears them;

at least one of said front and rear roof panels (48) comprises ~~the lever groups (62, 64) and~~

~~the other panel (40)~~ driving means ~~(76, 78, 88)~~ for driving the lever groups and one of said roof
the panels, together:

[[-]] either from the front towards the rear, along a distance ensuring ~~the~~ said roof
panel in question to move moves from its flush position to its off-set position in an
upward direction;

[[-]] or from the rear towards the front, along said distance, but in the opposite
direction, to ensure ~~the same~~ said roof panel to move moves from its off-set position
to its flush position; and

the lever groups ~~(62, 64)~~ engage, under the control of the driving means ~~(76, 78, 88)~~,
guides ~~(42, 44, 46)~~ extending essentially substantially parallel to said longitudinal direction,
these said guides being adapted for:

[[-]] during the controlled displacement of the lever groups from the front towards the
rear, guiding their tipping over movement from the flush position of the
corresponding roof panel to its the off-set position thereof; and

[[-]] during the controlled displacement of said lever groups from the rear towards the
front, guiding their tipping over movement from the off-set position of the
corresponding panel towards its flush position thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The retractable ~~Retractable~~ roof system ~~as set forth in~~ of claim 1,
~~characterised in that wherein~~ the lever groups ~~(62, 64)~~ individually comprise a curved lever
comprising a first arm ~~(62a)~~ rotatably articulated on the corresponding roof panel ~~(48)~~ and
~~firmly fixedly~~ attached via an elbow to a second arm ~~(62b)~~, which engages one of said guides
~~(42, 44, 46)~~, in order to guidingly drive it.

3. (Currently amended) The retractable ~~Retractable~~ roof system ~~as set forth in~~ of claim 1 ~~or~~
2, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the guides comprise runners equipped provided with first
grooves ~~(46)~~ in which the lever groups ~~(62, 64)~~ slide, the runners locally having deflected slips
~~(70, 72)~~ extending obliquely in relation to the horizontal and in relation to said longitudinal

direction, along a ~~sufficient~~ length adapted to receive, individually, a part of said lever groups, so that once engaged in ~~these~~ the deflected slips, the lever groups ~~in question~~ move, by pivoting, from one of their high or low positions towards the other position.

4. (Currently amended) The retractable ~~Retractable~~ roof system ~~as set forth in~~ of claim 3, ~~wherein:~~ characterised in that:

along the longitudinal direction of the vehicle, said runners comprise second grooves,
[[-]] one of the roof panels (40) is slidably mounted in relation to the other (48) roof panel along said ~~longitudinal direction (58), along second grooves, (42, 44) of said runners;~~
[[-]] at least some of the levers ~~fitted to~~ bear by the corresponding panel ~~at least~~ comprise a slider (66) slidably mounted in the first corresponding groove; and
[[-]] ~~these the~~ driving means comprise a driving hook (78) ~~bearing~~ having a driving recess (80) adapted for receiving said slider (66) and driving it along the corresponding guide (46), the recess extending frontwards via a driving wall (82) adapted for driving the corresponding slider ~~backwards, rearward,~~ along said first groove (46), this said recess extending ~~backwards rearward~~ via a ~~short~~ driving pin (84) making defining an inlet (86) for the slider, via the rear of said driving hook, so that the ~~short~~ driving pin drives the slider (66) forward as long as it engages the first groove (46) substantially along said longitudinal direction, but extricating from the slider when ~~the latter~~ said slider engages in the deflected slip (70, 72) of said first groove that it encounters, this said deflected slip thus being located in the extension of the groove and making an obtuse angle (α) ~~with it~~ therewith, so that the slider can engage therein in the direction of its drive.

5. (Currently amended) The retractable ~~Retractable~~ roof system ~~as set forth in~~ of claim 4, ~~wherein:~~ characterised in that:

[[-]] the sliders (66, 68) are ~~placed~~ disposed on the second arm (62b) of at least some of the levers, (62, 64);
[[-]] said the driving means ~~(76, 78, 88)~~ extend along said longitudinal direction, ~~and~~

[[-]] the front panel (40) is slidably mounted in relation to the rear panel (48) in order to move under it, and,

therefore, the deflected slips (70, 72) of each first groove (46) ~~being, for this purpose, are~~ oriented upwards and the lever groups ~~being~~ are linked to the rear panel under which the first groove extends.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The retractable~~ Retractable roof system of claim 1, wherein as set forth in any one of the previous claims, characterised in that the driving means comprise, towards ~~their~~ a rear end, a push button (76) adapted for engaging at least one lever from the lever groups (62, 64), when said lever the latter is in the low position, and drives it rearward along with itself, ~~of driving it along with itself in the direction of backwards displacement of said driving means (76, 78, 88).~~

7. (Currently amended) ~~The retractable~~ Retractable roof system as set forth in one of claim ~~claims 4, wherein:~~ 3 to 5 or in claim 6 depending on claim 3, characterised in that,

the front roof panel is (40) ~~being~~ slidably mounted in relation to the rear panel (48) in order to move under it, and,

the driving means of the front roof panel comprise, towards a ~~their~~ rear end, a second driving pin (88) adapted for fully engaging, in the corresponding deflected slips, the ~~second arm of the~~ front lever group beared by ~~fitted to the rear roof panel, once said these levers are free from the corresponding short driving pin, further to consecutively with a forward sliding of the front roof panel, so that the rear roof panel then moves into its flush position.~~

8. (Currently amended) ~~Motor vehicle equipped with a retractable roof system as set forth in one of the previous claims.~~ The retractable roof system of claim 4, wherein:

the front roof panel is slidably mounted in relation to the rear panel in order to move under it, and,

the driving means of the front roof panel comprise, towards a rear end, a second driving pin adapted for fully engaging, in the corresponding deflected slips, the front lever group beard by the rear roof panel, further to a forward sliding of the front roof panel, so that the rear roof panel then moves into its flush position.

9. (New) A motor vehicle having a front end and a rear end, and comprising a retractable roof and a vehicle structure, the retractable roof system comprising at least a front roof panel and a rear roof panel which are movable in relation to each other along a longitudinal direction of the vehicle between:

a flush position in which the roof panels are placed substantially at the same level as each other, the front roof panel thus being located in front of the rear roof panel, along said longitudinal direction; and,

an off-set position in an upward direction in which the roof panels are placed at least partially one above the other;

one of the front and rear roof panels bearing a group of front levers and a group of articulated rear levers, so as to tip over between:

a low position in which said one of the front and rear panels is substantially flush with a surround part of the vehicle structure,

and a high position in which said one of the front and rear panels is off-set in an upward direction in relation to the level of its flush position;

wherein:

said front and rear group of levers are pivotally mounted in relation to said roof panel which bears them;

at least one of said front and rear roof panels comprises driving means for driving both the lever groups and one of said roof panels:

either from the front towards the rear, along a distance ensuring said roof panel to move from its flush position to its off-set position in an upward direction,

or from the rear towards the front, along said distance, but in the opposite direction, to ensure said roof panel to move from its off-set position to its flush position; and

the lever groups engage, under the control of the driving means, guides extending essentially substantially parallel to said longitudinal direction, said guides being adapted for:

during the controlled displacement of the lever groups from the front towards the rear, guiding their tipping over movement from the flush position of the corresponding roof panel to the off-set position thereof; and

during the controlled displacement of said lever groups from the rear towards the front, guiding their tipping over movement from the off-set position of the corresponding panel towards its flush position thereof.

10. (New) The vehicle of claim 9, wherein the lever groups individually comprise a curved lever comprising a first arm rotatably articulated on the corresponding roof panel and fixedly attached via an elbow to a second arm which engages one of said guides, in order to guidingly drive it.

11. (New) The vehicle of claim 9, wherein the guides comprise runners provided with first grooves in which the lever groups slide, the runners locally having deflected slips extending obliquely in relation to the horizontal and in relation to said longitudinal direction, along a length adapted to receive, individually, a part of said lever groups, so that once engaged in the deflected slips, said lever groups move, by pivoting, from one of their high or low positions towards the other position.

12. (New) The vehicle of claim 9, wherein the driving means comprise, towards a rear end, a push button adapted for engaging at least one lever from the lever groups, when the latter is in the low position, and drives it rearward along with itself.